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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

February 12

ernment loans are still needed, but it would seem reasonable for the Government to limit its participation generally to the insurance of loans or some other indirect device which would let the REA co-ops build on their own strong foundations with a minimum of Federal aid. The not inconsiderable resources of the NRECA and the very size of its convention, which will be attended by more than 7,000 delegates, indicate the strength of the REA co-ops.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. FRANK KOWALSKI

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1959

Mr. KOWALSKI. Mr. Speaker, February is the month of heroes. To Americans the greatness of Washington and Lincoln is called to mind. To Lithuanians there are joyful recollections of independence, heroically won, only to be bitterly lost in the tragic recent past, but still celebrated in this month of honor. And to Polish people all over the world there is no date in memory more notable than February 12, the birthday of the great Polish statesman, military engineer extraordinary, democrat and patriot of two continents: Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

Never was there a man more inclined to dream of the impossible, yet at the same time so capable of fulfilling his dreams. Born into the mid-Eighteenth Century world, at a time when Poland was plagued by foreign armies, Kosciuszko grew up burning with the desire to drive the foreigners, once and for all, from Polish soil. Was this a practical dream? Was it practical to expect the people of a nation with no natural boundaries and little in the way of political unity to expel and hold at bay the arms of Europe's mightiest nations? Perhaps not, but Kosciuszko nonetheless conceived this dream and clung to it as long as he lived.

Kosciuszko's role in the American Revolution is legend. No sooner had he entered upon the military scene than his talents at fortification construction earned him wide renown. The defenses erected at Ticonderoga early in the war were his work, and his removal from that post and a revision of the defenses there brought forth an anguished cry from a superior officer, who prophesied disaster unless Kosciuszko returned. The protest was prophetic for, in Kosciuszko's absence, Ticonderoga fell to British assault.

Not wanting to commit the same blunder a second time, the American Army authorities now turned over their main defensive operations to Kosciuszko. At Saratoga he laid out defenses that enabled the Americans to overwhelm the British attack. This victory, in turn, won for America her alliance with France and her recognition as an independent nation by Louis XVI.

Now fully cognizant of the abilities of this engineering genius, the Army appointed Kosciuszko to oversee the de-

fense of the Hudson River, with headquarters at West Point, the so-called Gibraltar of the Hudson. Kosciuszko's work at West Point was the longest and most important of his undertakings in the United States and is inseparably connected in the American mind with his name. Little is now left of his fortifications, but the monument raised in his honor by the American youth, with the inscription: "To the hero of two worlds," remains a grateful tribute to his memory.

That the military students of the United States can look back to West Point as their alma mater is in great measure Kosciuszko's doing. When it was first resolved to found a training school in arms for the young men of the States, Kosciuszko urged that it should be placed at West Point, and suggested the spot where it now stands.

When he sailed from American shores in 1786, Kosciuszko left behind an enviable record. Living up to his constant dream of democratic achievement in the face of heavy odds, he had assisted in the liberation of a colonial people from the yoke of the most powerful military nation in the world. His remuneration had been slight, but that was no matter—a dream had been fulfilled.

Kosciuszko now returned to Poland in the hopes of serving the Polish people as he had served the Americans, and on the occasion of the reorganization of the Polish Army in 1789 he was appointed major general. The stage was now set for the closing drama of his career and his final contribution to the world's awkward struggle for perfection.

The democratic tidal wave generated by the American Revolution was now rushing upon Europe and compelling members of every class and creed to line up, either on the side of the revolutionary doctrine of the rights of man, or in defense of ancient European laissez-faire traditions. When this tidal wave struck Poland in May of 1791, Kosciuszko immediately announced himself as a democrat, calling upon the people to establish constitutional government. He was with the forces that carried the day.

A constitutional and hereditary government was established; burghers were granted equal civic rights with the nobility, and the condition of the peasants was ameliorated. At long last it appeared that political unity had come to Poland; that finally there existed the basis for the growth and success of a Polish state supported by the people. But such a development would deal a death blow to the designs of conquest of those who had fed so long on Polish weakness, including the neighboring state of Russia.

In consequence of this, Russia invaded Poland in May of 1792 and Kosciuszko, for the second time in his career, found himself engaged in the forefront of the world's battle for democracy. But on this occasion the odds were impossible. Notwithstanding Kosciuszko's brilliant generalship, the Polish Army was overwhelmed after two months of some of the most gallant fighting in military history.

When Poland was partitioned following the war, Kosciuszko withdrew from

the army and retired to Leipzig. But the next year he was back again, leading an insurrectionary army against the Russians with astonishing success until, once again overcome by the heavy odds, he was defeated for the final time.

What had Kosciuszko's military performance achieved for Poland? The cynical might observe that nothing was accomplished. But life is not so simple as to be governed solely by skirmishes won and lost on a battlefield. Kosciuszko's brilliant, courageous, and idealistic attempt to drive the foreign invader from Polish soil, in the name of democracy, created a tradition, which persists to this day; a tradition that will never be eradicated.

In his zeal for democratic government, Kosciuszko was following in the footsteps of the United States. But that was not always the order of things. In April 1817, 6 months before he died, he issued a letter of emancipation to the serfs on his estate in Poland. It was to be almost half a century before the United States was able to emulate this departing gesture of one of Europe's truly great democrats, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the "hero of two worlds."

A Plea for U.S. Diplomatic Relations
With the Vatican

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. VICTOR L. ANFUSO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1959

Mr. ANFUSO. Mr. Speaker, one of the most forceful and compelling forces in the struggle against communism and one of the strongest influences for peace in the world today is the Vatican. We are living in a most difficult age, a challenging age which calls for wise leadership and effective action if freedom is to survive. We must leave no stone unturned in meeting this challenge. By our refusal to establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican, however, we are ignoring a very important center of information and intelligence. In so doing, we are harming ourselves and the cause of freedom to a very considerable extent.

The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt realized the importance of maintaining diplomatic relations with the Vatican when he sent Ambassador Myron Taylor there as his emissary. The results of Mr. Taylor's mission were highly satisfactory to the interests of our Government and our people, because it enabled us to obtain certain political and economic intelligence which we would not have had otherwise.

Today the free world is in a life-and-death struggle with the evil forces of communism. If communism should emerge triumphant, it will make little difference whether we are Catholics, Protestants, or Jews—all believers, regardless of creed, will be doomed. Under such circumstances, it stands to reason that we should all be united in our